REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Office Action dated March 20, 2008. All rejections and objections of the Examiner are respectfully traversed. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The present claim amendments are intended to clarify and more precisely set forth the present invention. Support for the present claim amendments may be found at various places within the Specification and Drawings as originally filed. For example, support for the present claim amendments is found in lines 5-17 on page 34, and shown in the indications 554, 556, 558, 560 and 562 in Fig. 23. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1 and 4 stand rejected for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103, based on the combination of United States patent number 5,793,365 of Tang et al. and United States patent number 7,076,533 of Knox et al. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Tang et al. discloses a system for providing each networked computer user with a user interface displaying visual representations of workers in the user's workgroup, and communication mechanisms for efficiently and easily contacting any of the displayed workers. The visual representations of other users in Tang et al. indicate the activity level of the other users, to help predict if the other users are likely to be available for an interaction. A gallery window disclosed in Tang et al. includes visual representations of a current worker's work group, and a worker may be required to decide or select which other workers' visual representations are displayed in the gallery window. If the gallery is used to initiate a desktop video-conference, a separate display window is provided referred to as a glance window. The glance window provides panels of video stream data for each of the participants of the video-conference, and includes an object portal that allows the participants to pass data by cut and paste (or drag and

drop) operations. If a worker is already engaged in a desktop video teleconference when the current worker attempts to communicate with that worker, the glance window of Tang et al. displays the names of the participants and/or provides their images to the current worker. This allows the current worker to use the Tang et al. system to determine if it is appropriate to attempt to join in the ongoing interaction.

Knox et al. disclose a system for monitoring email and website behavior of an email recipient is provided. The Knox et al. system includes a mail enhancement server configured to intercept all outgoing emails from a mail server and modify each outgoing email to include a tracking code. The tracking code of Knox et al., is embedded in an image call which in turn is also inserted into the outgoing email. If the outgoing email contains hyperlinks, each hyperlink is also modified to include the tracking code. The image call (and the tracking code) is used to by the Knox et al. system to detect when the recipient of the outgoing email has opened that email. The tracking code, when embedded in a hyperlink, is also used by the Knox et al. system to monitor whether the recipient has opened the email and/or clicked through on one or more of the hyperlinks in the email. The Knox et al. logging server associates a cookie with the recipient of the outgoing email. When the logging server receives an image call, the corresponding image and the cookie are concurrently delivered to the recipient. The cookie is used to monitor the behavior of the recipient at a website, regardless of how the recipient arrives at that website, be it through a click-through from the email or otherwise. The Knox et al. logging server is further configured to capture and store relevant information relating to the outgoing email thereby allowing the sender of the outgoing email and the recipient to be linked and the behavior of the recipient to be monitored via the tracking code, the image call and the cookie.

Nowhere in the combination of Tang et al. and Knox et al. is there disclosed or suggested a method for providing a local user with the identities of users with whom a selected remote user has been communicating, comprising:

> detecting selection of said selected remote user from within a buddy list of said local user in a computer system display;
> obtaining a plurality of user representations, each of said plurality of user representations corresponding to a respective one of a plurality of users with whom said selected remote user previously communicated across a plurality of different communication applications, wherein said plurality of different communication applications includes electronic mail, internet phone, and electronic meeting applications;
> presenting said plurality of user representations to said local user in said computer system display, wherein all of said plurality of user representations are presented simultaneously in said computer system display, and wherein said plurality of user representations are presented in an order corresponding to an order in which said selected remote user previously communicated with each of said plurality users with whom said selected remote user previously communicated;
> *wherein each of said plurality of user representations comprises a visual image of said corresponding one of said plurality of users with whom said selected remote user previously communicated; and*
> *wherein each of said plurality of user representations has presented over it one of a plurality of graphical communication application indications, wherein said one of said plurality of graphical communication application indications visually represents which of said plurality of different communication applications was used for communicating between said selected remote user and said respective one of said plurality of users with whom said selected remote user previously communicated.* (emphasis added)

as in the present independent claim 1. In contrast, the information displayed in Tang et al. is with regard to *a single session* in *a single communication application,* i.e. a video conference (see column 8 lines 21-51), and similarly Knox et al. is also concerned with *a single communication application*, i.e. electronic mail. Accordingly, neither Tang et al. nor Knox et al., taken alone or in combination, provide any hint or suggestion of even the desirability of presenting a plurality of user representations to a local user in a computer system display, wherein all of the plurality of user representations are presented simultaneously in the computer system display, and wherein

the plurality of user representations are presented in an order corresponding to an order in which the selected remote user previously communicated with each of the plurality users with whom the selected remote user previously communicated, wherein each of the plurality of user representations comprises a visual image of a corresponding one of the plurality of users with whom said selected remote user previously communicated, and wherein each of the plurality of user representations has presented over it one of a plurality of graphical communication application indications, wherein the one of said plurality of graphical communication application indications visually represents which of the plurality of different communication applications was used for communicating between the selected remote user and the respective one of the plurality of users with whom the selected remote user previously communicated, as in the present independent claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, the combination of Tang et al. and Knox et al. fails to support a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103 with regard to the present independent claim 1. As to dependent claim 4, it depends from independent claim 1, and is respectfully believed to be patentable over the combination of Tang et al. and Knox et al. for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Dependent claims 7-9 stand rejected for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103, based on the combination of Tang et al. and Knox et al., and further in combination with United States patent number 6,697,840 of Godefroid et al. ("Godefroid et al."). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

As discussed above, the combination of Tang et al. and Knox et al. fails to disclose or suggest all the features of the present independent claim 1. The addition of Godefroid et al. fails to remedy the deficiency of the disclosures of Tang et al. and Knox et al. Godefroid et al.

discloses that a user can update his or her presence information, and the Godefroid et al. system automatically collects presence information about the user and automatically updates his or her presence information. Accordingly, the combination of Tang et al., Knox et al. together with Godefroid et al. also does not disclose or suggest presenting a plurality of user representations to a local user in a computer system display, wherein all of the plurality of user representations are presented simultaneously in the computer system display, and wherein the plurality of user representations are presented in an order corresponding to an order in which the selected remote user previously communicated with each of the plurality users with whom the selected remote user previously communicated, wherein each of the plurality of user representations comprises a visual image of a corresponding one of the plurality of users with whom said selected remote user previously communicated, and wherein each of the plurality of user representations has presented over it one of a plurality of graphical communication application indications, wherein the one of said plurality of graphical communication application indications visually represents which of the plurality of different communication applications was used for communicating between the selected remote user and the respective one of the plurality of users with whom the selected remote user previously communicated, as in the present independent claim 1, from which claims 7-9 depend. The combination of Tang et al., Knox et al. and Godefroid et al. therefore does not support a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103 with regard to the features of the present independent claim 1, and dependent claims 7-9 are respectfully believed to be patentable over the combination of Tang et al., Knox et al. and Godefroid et al. for at least the same reasons.

Reconsideration of all claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants have cancelled claims and amended claims. Applicants are not conceding in this application that the cancelled and/or unamended claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim cancellations and amendments are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of allowable subject matter. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue the cancelled and/or unamended claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Applicants' Attorney at the number listed below so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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